

NOTE OF PHALANGIDS AT THE NEVADA TEST SITE¹

Dorald M. Allred²

This is another of a series of faunal reports dealing with the ecology of the Nevada Test Site. A description of the biotic communities of the test site was given by Allred, Beck, and Jorgensen (1963), and subsequent publications have dealt with specific animal groups (refer to Beck, *et al.*, 1964, p. 209). The specimens for which the data are reported here were identified by Willis J. Gertsch, American Museum of Natural History, New York. Dr. Gertsch also supplied information on the general distribution of the species.

The Phalangida include the familiar long-legged, spider-like "daddy-long-legs" or "harvestmen" that occur in both temperate and tropical climates. Although a number of species are common in most parts of the United States, relatively little is known of their biology.

Two species are known from the Nevada Test Site. *Eurybunus*

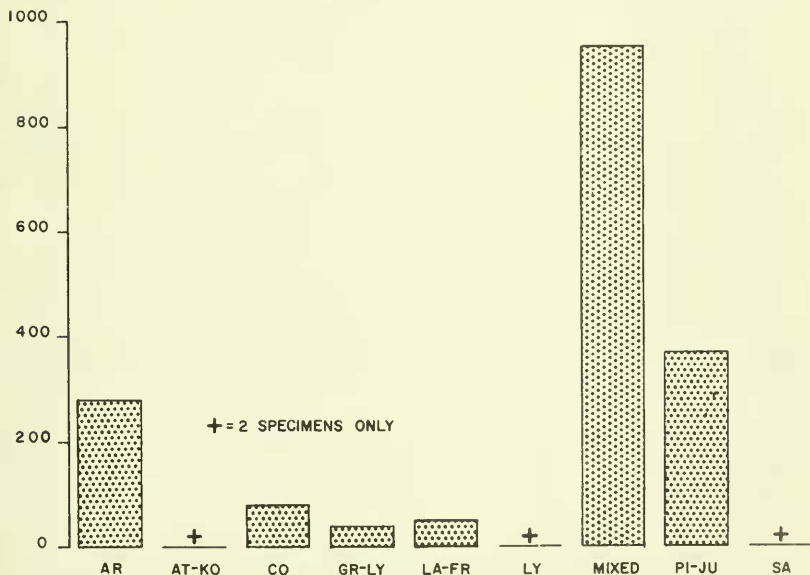


Fig. 1. Relative abundance of *Eurybunus riversi* in nine plant communities at the Nevada Test Site. (AR = *Artemisia tridentata*, AT-KO = *Atriplex confertifolia* — *Kochia americana*, CO = *Coleogyne ramosissima*, GR-LY = *Grayia spinosa* — *Lycium andersonii*, LA-FR = *Larrea divaricata* — *Franseria dumosa*, LY = *Lycium pallidum*, MIXED = other areas of a diversity which does not permit assignment to a specific community, PI-JU = *Pinus monophylla* — *Juniperus osteosperma*, SA = *Salsola kali*).

1. BYU-AEC Report No. COO-1355-9. Field work completed under AEC Contract No. AT(11-1) 786.

2. Department of Zoology and Entomology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

riversi Goodnight and Goodnight was described from specimens taken near Reno, Nevada, and occurs in the Mojave Desert of California. At the test site, specimens of this species are widely distributed geographically, found in 10 of the 25 areas studied: 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, C, E, J, and T. They are present in all of the plant communities, although they occur only rarely in the *Atriplex-Kochia*, *Lycium*, and *Salsola* communities (Fig. 1). Their seasonal activity is predominantly during the winter months, and only a few were taken during the summer (Fig. 2). At least half of the specimens collected were immature.

Leiobunum townsendi Weed is a common species in the western United States, but at the test site only four specimens were found. These were taken in a Pinyon-Juniper community during July and August. This species likely is more typical of the higher and more northern communities than of the Lower Sonoran and Mojave areas.

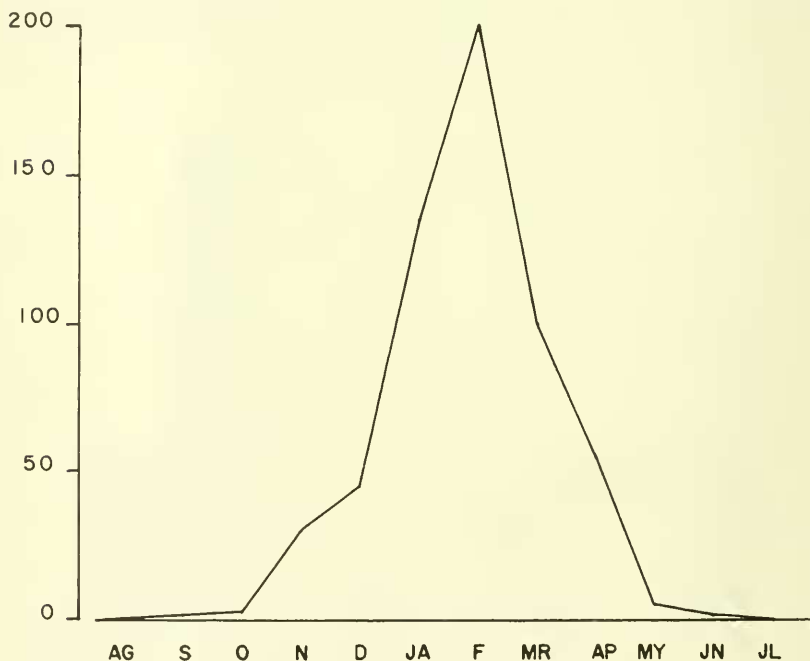


Fig. 2. Seasonal activity of *Eurybunus riversi* based on numbers of individuals taken at the Nevada Test Site.

LITERATURE CITED

- ALLRED, D. M., D. E. BECK, AND C. D. JORGENSEN. 1963. Biotic Communities of the Nevada Test Site. Brigham Young Univ. Sci. Bull., Biol. Ser., 2(2): 1-52.
- BECK, D. E., D. M. ALLRED, J. R. MURDOCK, C. D. JORGENSEN, C. L. HAYWARD, AND W. W. TANNER. 1964. Nevada Test Site Desert Ecology. Proc. Utah Acad. Sci., Arts, and Letters, 41(2):202-210.